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# IN THE BEGINNING



Published Quarterly By  
Woodson County Historical Society  
Yates Center, Kansas  
Vol. 19 - No. 74

## IN THE BEGINNING

Vol.19-No.74

April 1986

Lester A. Harding, Editor

### Editors Notes — 1

The cover picture on the last issue, (January,) caused many comments. Several said that it had to be one of my sister Mae's children. (Mae and Walter Weide). One or two said that it was a cute little dickins??

\* \* \* \* \*

The remarks in the last issue about discontinuing the publishing of "IN THE BEGINNING," has brought quite a few letters away from here. One from Raymond Gorman, of Miami, Florida, expressed the opinion of most of them. "I read your recount that you don't plan to carry on the publication past 1986 and while I feel a little saddened with the realization that the forgotten history of Woodson County and it's people will cease to be explored with the vigor and tenacity so prevalent behind your works. I must say that you have made a great contribution to the people of Woodson County and past residents who have roots or childhood memories".

\* \* \* \* \*

We will say no more about the fate of "IN THE BEGINNING" until the October issue.

\* \* \* \* \*

The cover picture this time is a picture of the Register of Deeds Office in 1891. The man sitting at the desk was Fred L. Stephenson, who was Register-of-Deeds for two terms. This office was in the old courthouse at the northeast corner of the square. The man standing at the desk is unknown.

Mr. Stephenson later was connected with the Commerical State Bank.

The county records as made by Mr. Stephenson and others before him have grown to many volumes that are being used at the present time. The work load has greatly increased since Mr. Stephenson's time 95 years ago. The present Register of Deeds is Helen Barney.

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Published Quarterly By  
Woodson County Historical Society  
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\$4.00 per year

\$1.00 per copy

## WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Organized March, 1965

The membership given for the Woodson County Historical Society given in the last issue was wrong. It was given as 500, which is the number of copies of *In The Beginning* we have printed each issue. The membership is about half of that. There are 144 living who have Life Memberships and about 104 regular members.

\* \* \* \* \*

### IN MEMORIAN

Maudie Surber 77 January 6, 1986

Mrs. Surber was one of the Charter Members of the Woodson County Historical Society, and had a Life Membership in the Society. She was a native of Woodson County and spent most of her life in this county.

Lloyd Weide 75 January 21, 1986

Mr. Weide was a native of Woodson County but left here quite a few years ago and passed away while living in Long Beach, California. He held a Life Membership in the Woodson County Historical Society.

Leonard G. Steiner 76 March 6, 1986

Mr. Steiner was born and lived most of his life in Woodson County.

\* \* \* \* \*

The regular bi-monthly meeting of the Woodson County Historical Society was held January 28, 1986, at the 107 Inn, with a large group of 61 members and visitors present for the 6:30 dinner. The program was given by David Powls, Editor of the Yates Center News and a member of a publishing firm. The program was the introduction of the new Woodson County History Book that is in the making.

\* \* \* \* \*

A large wire collection has been given to the Woodson County Historical Museum. It was given by Orlie Chapman, whose son Jack had collected it before his death.

\* \* \* \* \*

Join and support the

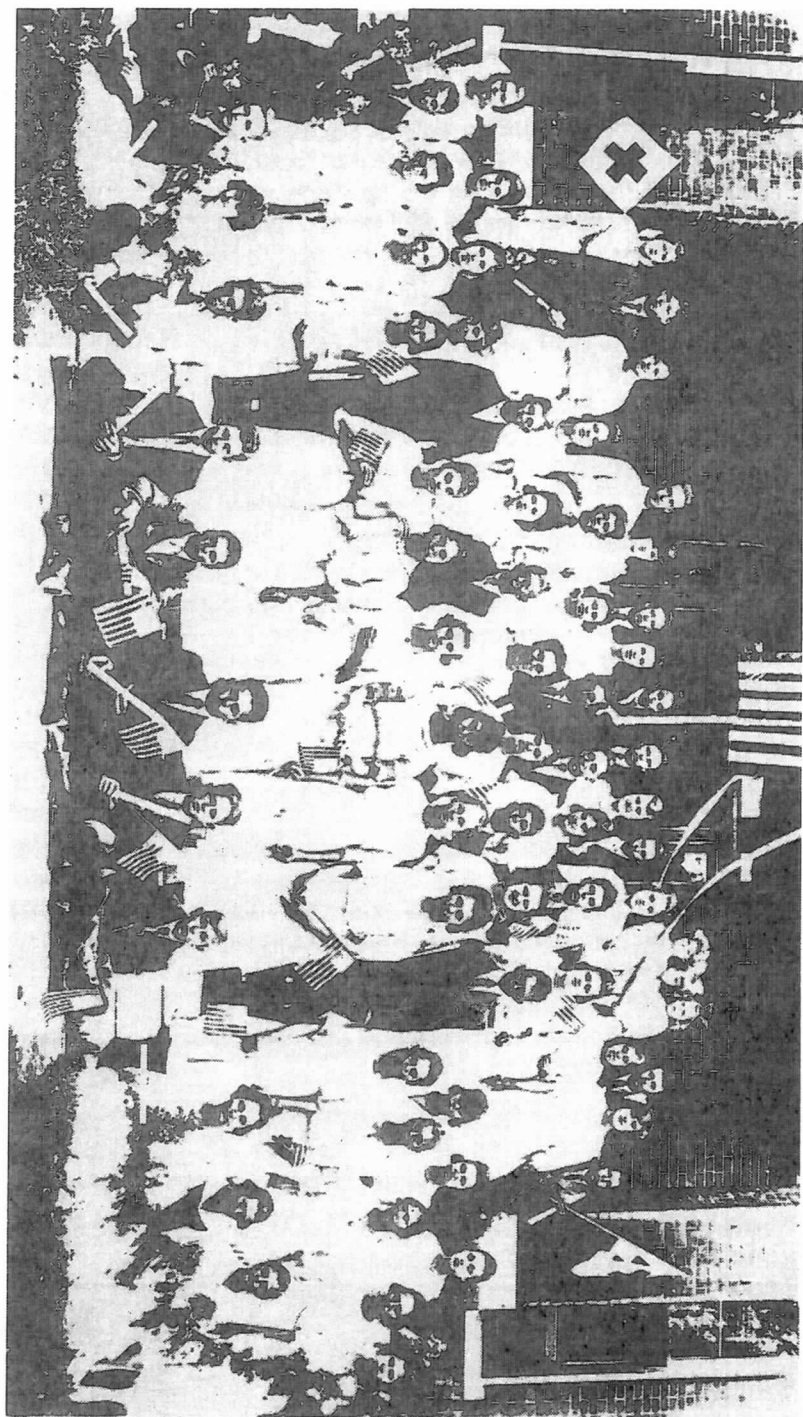
WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Life Membership \$25.00

Regular Membership \$2.00 a year

**RURAL GRADE SCHOOL GRADUATION**  
**WOODSON COUNTY 1920 — Elizebeth Spencer**  
**County Superintendent**

Armstrong, Mabel	14	Vernon
Beach, Faye	12	Yates Center
Beckley, Alice	14	Buffalo
Blevins, Eva	16	Yates Center
Brown, Ross	14	Piqua
Burns, Nellie	17	Rose
Byfield, Lyle	13	Neosho Falls
Cook, Florence	14	Yates Center
Cordell, James	17	Yates Center
Cashaw, Dean	15	Yates Center
Cunningham, Floyd	16	Wichita
Davis, Leroy	15	Toronto
Davis, May	15	Yates Center
Doil, Esther	15	Rose
Elliot, Lillian	15	Rose
Fisher, Max	14	Rose
Folmer, Charley	15	Buffalo
Foster, Milo	15	Rose
Fuhlage, Edith	13	Toronto
Harding, Lester	15	Yates Center
Hasstedt, Lena	16	Piqua
Hasstedt, Louise	16	Piqua
Havens, Alta	16	Yates Center
Heffern, Joe	14	Neosho Falls
Hein, Myrtle	17	Vernon
Herdman, Mary	13	Piqua
Heslop, Sidney	14	Neosho Falls
Hoag, Lee	15	Yates Center
Huff, Everett	16	Toronto
Hutchinson, Mary	16	Colony
Ireland, Helen	14	Toronto
Ireland, Kermit	14	Toronto
Jackson, Gladys	13	Neosho Falls
King, Lester	15	Humboldt
Klick, Lewis	13	Toronto
Lopp, Maude	15	Rose
Louck, Grace	16	Toronto
Massey, Levi	14	Vernon
Massoth, Tom	15	Piqua
Mentzer, Harley	15	Yates Center



## RURAL SCHOOL GRADUATES — 1920 —

Mize, Bernice	14	Yates Center
Morehead, Grace	15	Yates Center
McConnell, Valorie	16	Yates Center
Nantz, Berbiece	16	Yates Center
Pinkerton, Melissa	16	Rose
Reedy, Marie	15	Humboldt
Reno, Esther	14	Yates Center
Ricketts, Hazel	14	Vernon
Saferight, Edna Mae	13	Neosho Falls
Scafe, Zetta	16	Humboldt
Sicka, Rose	14	Iola
Stange, Everett	14	Yates Center
Stephens, Wilma	14	Yates Center
Stockebrand, Myra	14	Yates Center
Terrell, Ernest	17	Yates Center
Terrell, Tresa	15	Yates Center
Thornton, David	15	Rose
Thornton, Mae	19	Rose
Timm, Elsie	14	Toronto
Van Kirk, Eleanor	13	Buffalo
Varvel, Ralph	13	Burlington
Vermillion, Victor	15	Yates Center
Wagner, Charley	14	Piqua
Watkins, Clara	14	Vernon
Weckel, Arthur	13	Piqua
Weckel, Elizebeth	16	Piqua
Whittaker, Mattie	16	Yates Center

### NEOSHO FALLS —

Elam, Reuben . . . Johnson, Harold . . . Smith, Phillop . . . Holtz,  
Ernest . . . Highbarger, James.

### VERNON —

Almond, Lena . . . Brewer, Florence . . . Darst, Cleo . . . Miller,  
Genevieve . . . Settlemeyer, Vergie.

## BRAKEMAN A HERO —

Archie Morris, brakeman on the Mo. Pacific Railway, of Yates Center is the hero of the rescue of little Maxine Robinson, 18 month daughter of Mrs. M. Robinson of 118 N. Third St. Iowa. It was Morris who last Monday morning hurried out of an engine cab window onto the running board, down onto the pilot, out onto the track and raced down between the rails ahead of the rapidly moving train grasped little Maxine from her perilous position and then returned to his seat in the engine as if the race with death were but a matter of every day routine.

Mrs. Robinson watched, speechless with fear while the brakeman rescued her baby. Too greatly excited to find out who saved the life of her little one.

Meanwhile there were persons who were interested in knowing the identity of the young man whose deed of bravery had saved the life of the little girl. Inquiry first indicated that the rescue was effected by the fireman of the locomotive, but, investigation disclosed that the hero was a "roughneck", as the railroad fireman is called in railroad parlance, and not a "tallow-pot" as the fireman is called.

The attention of the officials of the Missouri Pacific has been called to the heroic act of the brakeman.

Iowa Register — July 25, 1920

\* \* \* \* \*

Archie Morris lived in Yates Center for several years while he worked on the railroad.

No. <u>790</u>	
\$ <u>7.00</u>	
Yates Center, Kas., <u>Dec 12</u> 188 <u>7</u>	
<b>The Woodson National Bank,</b>	
<small>OF YATES CENTER, KAS.</small>	
Pay to <u>Pay to the order of</u>	or Bearer
<u>Seven</u>	<u>70</u> Dollars.
<u>L. L. Miller, Cashier</u>	
<small>Devoe &amp; Brown, Stationers, No. 21 Liberty Street, N. Y.</small>	

A cancelled check that was given on the "Woodson National Bank." This bank was a frame building where the grass parking is at the east side of the present bank. Check is nearly 100 years old.



**YATES CENTER NEWS — George E. Faler — Editor,**  
Friday, Oct. 6, 1882.

**ANNOUNCEMENT — Mr. Editor:** Please announce Miss Kate Rhea as an independent candidate for County Superintendent of Public Instruction, and oblige, **MANY VOTERS.**

Tri-weekly hack line between Humboldt and Yates Center, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Special attention given to packages. J.P. Brooks, Proprietor.

Nice resident lots in Yates Center for sale at from \$20 to \$40. Apply to Abner Yates at the Central Hotel or I.N. Holloway, Yates Center. Abner Yates.

#### **For Sale**

I have for sale 14 head of stock hogs. 12 shoats, 1 sow and 6 pigs, all No. 1 Poland China stock. Also my farm of 80 acres, limestone soil free from rocks. All fenced, 55 acres improved, 10 acres pasture with water. 300 bearing peach trees, 120 young apple trees, 40 cherry trees, comfortable house, stabling and good well. Farm \$900, \$300 cash, balance time. Six miles north and 2 west of Yates Center. J. Kraut, Coloma, Kansas.

**NEW LIVERY STABLE — Joel Wilder — Proprietor.** Northwest corner of square.

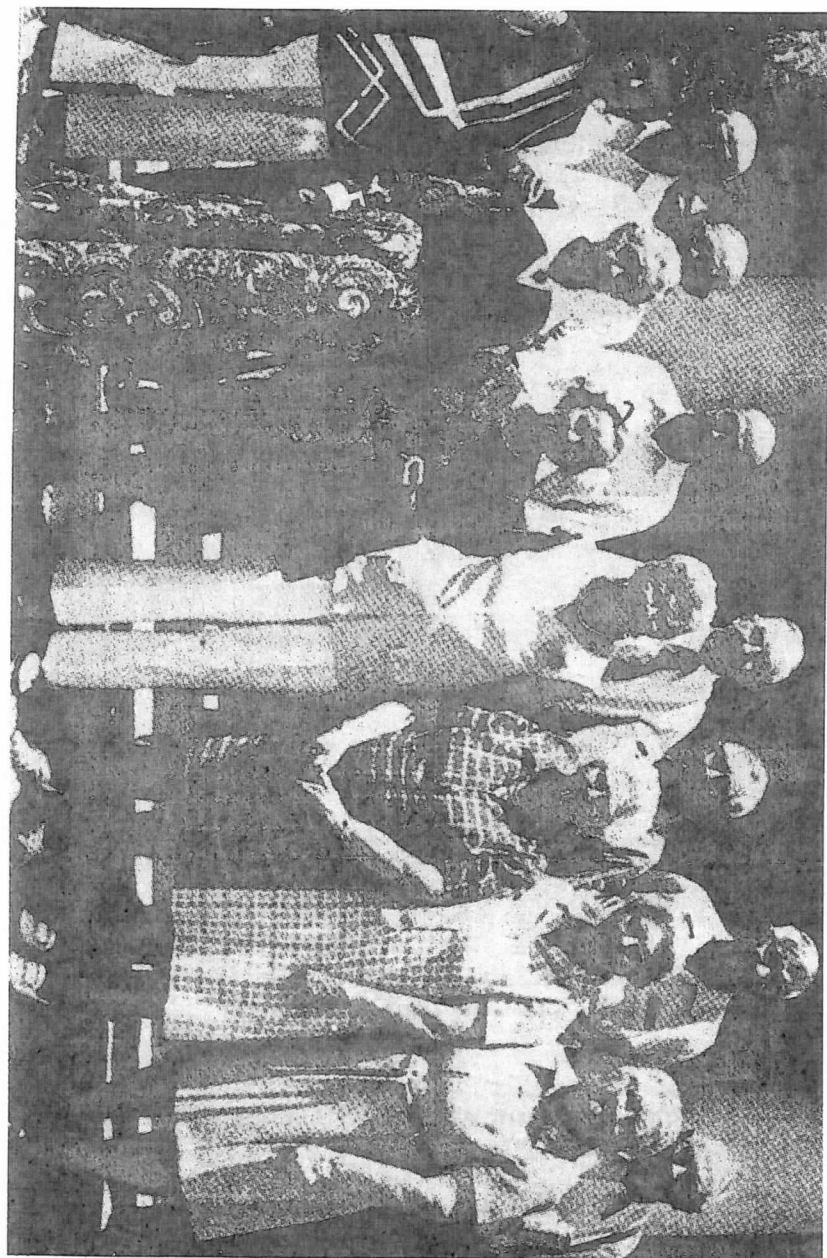
Having recently opened out in his new barn, and noting the growing demands of our town, is now able to furnish good rigs at reasonable rates. Give him a call when in need of any thing in the livery line. **COMMERCIAL PATRONAGE SOLICITED.**

The combined weight of our County Commissioners, the "Big Three," is six hundred and ninety pounds. Can any county in the state provide heavier weights.

George Stewart of this place, carried away the blue ribbon at the District Fair last week for the best span of horses for farm and general purposes.

Our schools opened Monday with an enrollment in the several departments of one hundred and sixteen. The Board have rented the new stone building of Julious Schmidt, near the courthouse for the primary school. Miss Harris' department. This is not the best locality in town, but the best they could do at the present. (This stone building used as a school was located where the present Post Office now is. The courthouse was directly across the street south from that stone building, with the old stone jail to the east of the courthouse.)





## SENIOR CITIZENS group meet —

The Senior Citizens group met on June 14, 1974 for their monthly luncheon. 62 persons signed the guest book, and 16 of these were from the Senior Citizens group of Humboldt. Mrs. Ida Harding from Stockton, California and Ruth Elder of Pratt were also visitors.

Rev. Dan Pennie gave the invocation. The program was given and dedicated to 10 couples who had celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in the past. These couples were; Jude and Elizebeth Linde, Roy and Lily Shriver, William and Stella Hilberth, Lewis and Carrie Wrampe, Walter and Mae Weide, Chester and Bama Lukens, Mae and Noble Lancaster. Three couples were not present, Walter and Valerie Smith, George and Dorothy Fifer, and Gus and Julia Fulhage.

The program was then given. Gerry Town and Elizebeth Linde gave a sketch of Gerry's life from the time she met her husband to be, until now. This was done by telling the story and Elizebeth accompanying her on the piano with song that fit the different occasions. Les Brown gave a reading and Rev. and Mrs. Pennie sang a duet.

The business meeting followed. There will be no meeting in July and August, so the next meeting will be on September 13.

Mr. and Mrs. Estil McKinsey were first time guests.

Vesta Wood was Secretary.

This club was held in what is now the Board of Education building. We believe that Bill and Katherine were the first presidents of the group. The meetings were later held at the 4H Community Building. Here Jim Schnell was president of the group for several years.

Of the ten couples mentioned above as celebrating their 50 years and past that are living are, Roy and Lily Shriver and Jude and Elizebeth Linde.

This club is still meeting at the Community Building on the second Friday of each month. Officers Henreita Heffron, Sec. Lula Pope.

The seven couples that were present for the 50 years and more were from the left in the picture, are Roy and Lilly Shriver, Chester and Alabama Lukens, Wm. and Stella Hilberth, Jude and Elizebeth Linde, Walter and Mae Weide, Lewis and Carrie Wrampe, Noble and Mae Lancaster.

WOODSON COUNTY POST — 1876 — Neosho Falls, KS

May 3rd. — The annual meeting of the Woodson Co. Bible Society will be next Sabbath evening at the Congregational Church. Rev. L. Harlow, Pres.

\* \* \* \* \*

Marriage licenses issued March and April, 1876. Greenup Allen to Miss Florence Powell. Cyrus Rose to Miss Mary S. Enes. Rueben Daniel to Martha Rogers. John Cohoe to Mrs. Livina Vandercar. Louis N.B. Anderson to Ella F. Taylor. Frank Schaeede to Helene Krim. Wm. Bendle to Eliza Cohart.

Duncan Campbell was married to Miss Ginerva Felker on the 15th of January, 1882.

Thomas J. Essex, Coffey Co. was married to Miss Martha J. Williams, Feb. 5, 1882, at the home of her parents Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Williams, in Liberty township.

\* \* \* \* \*

Omar Whitney came to Woodson Co., with his parents in 1859. Moving first to the log cabin west of Burt. Joined Union Army, 1863. Married Mary Ann Graves. Later married Julia Fay.

\* \* \* \* \*

Nahursada Miles, born Dec. 5, 1821, at Shelby Co. Kentucky, married 1841 to Joseph Ellis. Children Catherine, Mildred, Lucy, Ella, Margaret, David Ellis.

\* \* \* \* \*

May — 1919 — Good-Bye Old Courthouse —

The old courthouse was built at Defiance in 1874, and moved to its present location in 1876, and is no more. The last piece of studding came down Thursday and has been hauled away, and by the time our readers see this nothing will be left to mark the place of its former grandeur, but a pile of refuse.

\* \* \* \* \*

Toronto, Kans. — Rebecca A. McLeod was born April 13, 1825 at Aurora, Ontario, Canada. On April 12, 1848, she was married to Albert Webb. They were parents of seven children. With husband and family came to Kans. in 1871 and settled on a farm about a mile north and some west of Toronto. Mrs. Webb died August 4, 1905.

### Dr. George W. Lee and Family —

George W. Lee was born at Markham, Morgan County, Illinois, December 4, 1867. His paternal Grandfather, George Lee was born in 1814 in Yorkshire, England. And on coming to America settled near Jacksonville, Illinois where he took up farming. The maiden name of his wife was Miss Audis.

George W. Lee's parents were both born and spent all of their lives on a farm near Markham, Illinois. His father Thomas was born in 1838, and died in 1908. His mother Martha Hall was born in 1837 and died in 1904. Thomas and Martha Lee had nine children of which George W. was the fifth one.

Geo. W. Lee spent his boyhood on the farm at Markham, Illinois. He attended local schools, later different medical schools. In 1894 he completed the course of the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Keokuck, Iowa, where he received his degree of Doctor of Medicine.

After a year of practice at Meredosia, Illinois, Dr. Lee then came west and to Kansas where he settled at Toronto, Kansas where for seventeen years he remained in active practice.

In 1897, Dr. Geo. W. Lee was married to Miss Minnie Kaltenbach, at Toronto, Kans. Her parents were William and Alice (Kain) Kaltenbach, where he was in the real estate business. Dr. and Mrs. Lee had three children; Thomas, George and Eva.

In 1913, Dr. Geo. Lee and family removed their home and business to Yates Center. His offices were located in what was known at that time as the Stephenson and Hale building on State Street. (Where Clyde Hill's law office building is now located.) Dr. Geo. W. Lee continued his medical profession in this building for many years or until his death.

"From no professional man do we expect so much of the cardinal virtues as from the physician. If the clergyman is austere we imagine that his mind is absorbed with the contemplation of things beyond our ken; If our lawyer is brusque and crabbed it is the mark of a genius; but in the physician we expect only superior mentality and comprehensive knowledge but sympathy as wide as the universe; Dr. Lee in a measure meets all of these requirements and is regarded as an ideal physician. He is indeed the loved family doctor in many a household, and the value of his service to the community cannot be overestimated."

(The above tribute of Dr. G.W. Lee was given by a writer of his biography in the book, "History of Allen — Woodson Counties, published in 1901.)

Dr. Geo. R. Lee was a veteran of the two World Wars. Having served as an enlisted man in WW I, and a Medical Officer 32nd Station Hospital in WW II. He served with distinction in the Fifth Army, spending many months overseas. He was member of the Society of Military Physicians and Surgeons, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the American Legion. Military honors awarded him were European, African, Middle East Medals the Bronze Star Medal, and the WW II Victory Medal. Coming back from WW II, he started practicing in the medical office with his father. He had the rank of Major during World War II.

In his early youth he became a member of the First Presbyterian Church. A member of the Masonic Lodge and the Elks, and through his busy schedule left little time to indulge his artistic talent, he never lost sight of the beautiful and it's rightful place in life. He was a graduate of Yates Center High School Class of 1917.

Dr. George R. Lee was married to Miss Lenora Sterling on October 18, 1945. They were the parents of two daughters, Suzanne, who married Ronald Shaffer. They have a son Jeremy. Suzanne is a nurse in the K.C. Medical Hospital in Kansas City.

The younger daughter Nedra married Galen Yoho. They have a son Quentin Lee.

Dr. Lee had two daughters by a previous marriage, Vivian Shafer, and Norma June Smith. Vivian had two children, Penny and Floyd. Norma had daughters, Cheri, Janis, and Candice. The latter one dieing as both Norma and Vivian did.

Dr. George R. Lee was one of the last of what was known as the old "Country Doctors," when the doctor went to the home to deliver babies. There were times when the doctor answered the call his car would hang up in snow banks and the doctor had to finish the call on horseback, with whomever would come after him.

\* \* \* \* \*

Thomas Lee graduated from the Yates Center High School with the class of 1917. He went on to college and became a Civil Engineer.

Eva Lee became a talented young lady, but ill health took her life at the age of 34. Eva was married to Lawton Bennett. They had a son Jimmis Lee Bennett. Eva was a graduate of the Yates Center High School with the class of 1919.

### THE JOHN LIEBAU FAMILY —

John Liebau was a native of Germany, where he was born and grew up. As a young man he came to America and to Kansas.

In October, 1875, he was united in marriage to Miss Wilhelmina Weide the only daughter of Godfrey and Charlotte Weide. They were married at Grenola, Elk County, Kansas.

Minnie Weide was born in Herring, Prussia in 1851, and passed away January 25, 1936. She came to America with her parents in 1855, and to Kansas in 1858 and to the Turkey Creek area where her parents homesteaded in 1859. She went mostly by the name of Minnie, but the 1860 census gave her name as Mena. In the 1870 census her name was given as Minnie. Minnie's only schooling was in the log school along Turkey Creek a couple of miles from the Weide home. Her younger brother William rode with her on a horse they called Rosy, according to a story told this writer. She lived through a pioneers life of wilderness.

John and Minnie Liebau were parents of eight children, rearing them in Elk County. In 1900 they sold their farm in Elk County and moved to Woodson County north of Toronto along Brazil Creek, in Sec. 13, Twp. 25, Range 13.



Picture of the John Liebau Family. Left to right, Mary, Charley, Emma, Elsie, Wilhelmina (Mother), Hattie, John Liebau, Edlth, Anna, and Fred.

The children of John and Minnie Liebau and their families.

—1— Emma married Canna Fuqua. Their children were; Earl, who married Inez Cofer. After her death he married Elsie Stewart. Minnie married Royce Clarhan; Louis married Peggy Northern; Ross married Ada Northern; Elsie married Fred Sutherland, later married Melvin Zook; John married Joy Gizzey; Ottie married Martha. . . .

—2— Anna Liebau married Will Bauder. Their children were; Mae married Carl Nordmeyer; Martha married John Roman; Marie married David Smith; Wilmer married Hazel Smith.

—3— Fred Liebau married Lucy Tannahill McCoy. Their children were; Ottie who married Alice. . . .; Floyd married. . . .; Nettie who married Howard Roberts. Willis never married.

—4— Mary Liebau married Adam Stock. Their children were; Elizebeth married Kurt Nordmeyer; Minnie married James Tallman; Millie married Leonard Oswald; Lynna married Max Powers; Adam married Doris McVey; Fred never married; Doris married Russell Otto; Elsie married Herbert Bowman, Jr.

—5— Edith Liebau married Grover Holderman. Their children were, Marlyn who married Mildred Robinson; Grant (Doc) married Doris Church; Frank married LaDema Bunyard; Emilie married Edward Nacearatin.

—6— Elsie Liebau married William (Bill) Nordmeyer. Their children were; John married Karen Saule; Williw married Jean Moore; Harry married Yvonne Elliot; Ray and Dale never married.

—7— Hattie married Max Matlock. They have no children.

—8— Charley never married.

The John Liebau farm on Brazil Creek now belongs to Willis Liebau, a son of Fred Liebau, who owned the farm for several years. The old house was torn down and a new one built.



## CAREY A. MULLINEX —

Carey Allen Mullinex was born in 1827 in Hillsboro, Highland County, Ohio, to William and Susan (Trimble) Mullinex. His father became terminally ill and wrote a will dated May 11, 1833. (Condensed). Wife Susan; children "to my two elder sons John Franklin and James Henry . . . . Younger sons William Carter, Charles Washington, Carey Allen and Jasiah", supported and schooled . . . . also be provided with a home with her mother whilst she remains single.

Carey A. Mullinex married Margaret Carlisle Dec. 12, 1849 in Highland County, Ohio, by Henry Turner, MG. and their son James Carlisle Mullinex, was born August 19, 1852, and son Thomas Henery was born Sept. 1855, both in Highland Co., Ohio.

Carey and his family came to Southeast Kansas by 1861, as he is listed as a sergeant in the index to the Kansas Militia, in the Civil War. Mullinex was 1st Sgt. under Capt. W.W. Brazel of Co. F, 16th Reg. Kansas State Militia, and was included in the Frontier Battalion. Sgt. Mullinex's brother-in-law Private Thomas Carlisle was in the same company. Their headquarters were at Ft. Row, just over in Wilson County.

Mullinex evidently moved over in Wilson County. The first Probate Judge of Wilson County was appointed. The first elected probate Judge was Carey Mullinex, who was elected in 1865 and 1866.

In 1869, soon after the Osage Indian Trust Land was opened for settlement, Carey went to the U.S. Land Office at Humboldt, Kansas and filed on S.E. quarter section and the east half of the S.W. quarter of Sec. 36, Twp. 26, R. 13. Almost in the very corner of the county with some of the land joining Wilson Co. and just a quarter mile from the Greenwood Co. line. The north part of the Mullinex homestead joining land of his wife's brother, Thomas Carlisle. The Carlisle homestead was all taken over by the U.S. when the Toronto Reservoir was built.

The children of Carey and Margaret Carlisle Mullinex were, Thomas Henery died on Aug. 12, 1875, and was buried in the Carlisle Cemetery. The 1880 census lists Carey as 56 years of age, and born in Ohio, his parents both born in Virginia. Their son, Charles Mullinex, age 10 years and daughter Ellen age 15, and listed as an adopted daughter. James Carlisle Mullinex was listed in another household. He was 27 and born in Ohio. His wife Ellen was 25 years of age, and also born in Ohio. They had daughters, Margaret, age 5, and Ollie, age 2, both born in Kansas.

Margaret G. Carlisle Mullinex, born Feb., 1830, and died Aug. 14, 1887, age 57 years, 5 months and 27 days. She is buried in the Carlisle Cemetery, south of Toronto.

## LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF CAREY A. MULLINEX

I Carey A. Mullinex of Toronto Township, Woodson County, State of Kansas make this my last will and testament.

I give, bequeth and devise to my son, Charles F. Mullinex the best bed with sufficient bedding to furnish and keep it warm, also one Bay mare "Molly." Also one bay mare "Maude" and seven head of cattle claimed by him. And as to an off-set to the above I will that a certain receipt that I hold against James C. Mullinex for three hundred dollars or more be destroyed. Further more I will and bequeath to Ella Cochran the sum of two hundred dollars, after my debts are paid. Out of my personal property I will that it be equally divided between my two sons, James C. and Charles F. Mullinex, or jointly kept by them as they may elect except as herein before stated. I will, devise and bequeath my real estate property and jointly share and share alike to my two sons, James C. Mullinex and Charles F. Mullinex, described as follows to wit. The S.E. quarter and East half of Sec. 36, all in Twp. 26, Range 13, the same being in Toronto Township, Woodson County, Kansas and containing 240 acres less railroad right of way.

And I hereby appoint my two sons James C. Mullinex and Charles F. Mullinex executors of this my last will and ask that they be appointed without bond, their residence being in Toronto Township, Woodson, County, Kansas in witness thereof I have signed and sealed this instrument as my will this 30th day of May A.D. 1888.

The said Carey A. Mullinex on said 30th day of May, 1888 signed and sealed this instrument and published and declared the same as the last will and we at his request and in his presence of each other hereunto written our names as subscribing witnesses.

Toronto, Kans.

J.M. Dickerson  
E.A. Hibbard

J.T. Parkinson  
J.J. Johnson

\* \* \* \* \*

## WARRANTY DEED RECORD, WOODSON COUNTY, KANSAS

C.A. Mullinex sold to J.C. Mullinex the above described real estate on the 15th day of October, 1888 for the sum of six thousand, five hundred dollars, and the grantee assumed a mortgage of three hundred dollars against the property.

(This property was sold to Emma Henson Beale about 1903, granddaughter of Nathaniel Mullinex, who was also the grandfather of Wesley Mullinex, who furnished the majority of this story.)

Carey A. Mullinex and several of his relatives are buried in the Bethel Cemetery South of Port Orchard, Washington, where they moved to from Toronto. Carey died June 30, 1889.

## BIG SANDY CREEK AND ITS TRIBUTARIES —

Big Sandy Creek with all of its hills and hollows has probably the most branches and tributaries of any creek in the county, but so far in our study of the various streams of the county we cannot find any of these branches with even a local name. Big Sandy and its many branches has perhaps the most and richest folklore and history of any of the streams in Woodson County. Like other places much of it has faded away with time and the passing of the older people. The headwaters of this creek start just to the west and south of Yates Center. After crossing the Woodson—Wilson county line Big Sandy enters on the north side of the Verdigris River. This is about four miles south of the county line, and about the same distance east of Coyville.

During the summer of 1861, Ft. Row was established on the south bank of the river directly opposite the river from the mouth of Big Sandy. Three log block houses 16 x 24 feet were erected with split logs or slabs about eight foot long were placed upright and extended on three sides of the block houses and covering about a half acre. The side next to the river was left open as the high bank of the river seemed protection enough there. Company F of the sixteenth Reg. Kansas State Militia was stationed there, with Capt. John Row in command. The First Lieut. was Lewis Thompson, and 2nd Lieut. was W.W. Brazil. Both Thompson and Brazil has claims along the river now covered by the waters of the Toronto Reservoir. Later Brazil was appointed as Captain.

During the winter of 1861-62 Ft. Row became an important and busy place as thousands of Indians were driven from their homes in the Indian Territory because of their loyalty to the Union. About ten miles up Big Sandy where a small spring-fed creek branches another stockade was built and called Ft. Belmont. Company F of the Sixteenth Reg., Kansas State Militia, with Captain Joseph Gunby in command. The First Lieut. was James E. Watkins and 2nd Lieut. was Robert N. Daniel. These three men all gave their addresses as Belmont, although Gunby lived to the south of Buffalo Creek. Watkins and Daniel lived in the Big Sandy community. The Big Sandy "community" covered quite a large area in the south and west part of Woodson County.

The fort at Belmont was not as much a fort as Ft. Row, but has been the pride of the people that came from that community. The "fort" was more or less in the shape of an oval. It was made of sticks and logs making a pen and the center filled with dirt. This area was about 100 feet across. A small log cabin was built in the center of the oval shaped enclosure. A large spring to the east side of the enclosure was walled up.

B.F. Foster had established a trading place at Belmont with the Osages in 1856. The name Belmont evidently derived from the house that he had made of logs and stone and was called Belmont House.

Strung along Big Sandy between these two forts were around 10,000 destitute Indians of several tribes. During January and February of 1862, hundreds of Indians and their ponies died from lack of food and clothing to sustain them during the cold, severe winter. A small pox epidemic among the Indians and settlers also took quite a heavy toll of lives.

Just a short distance south of the county line a small stream branches of the east side of Big Sandy and forms a canyon for a short distance to the northeast. A high hill and bluff divides Big Sandy and this small stream. On the east slope of this hill was the burying place for quite a lot of the small-pox Indian victims. The road makes quite a bend where this stream comes and a house at this bend has for many years been known as the Rafe Blevins house.

Also along the east side of the Big Sandy along the county line was an Indian Trading post. Just across the creek to the west was the well-known Daniel cabin. It was built in 1866. Now moved to Woodson County Historical Museum grounds.

Around a half-mile to the north of the county line a small stream comes into the creek from the hills to the west. This is the stream that we referred to as Indian Scaffold Branch. We were told that along this branch a large scaffold or perhaps more than one was built of poles that extended several feet high with a covering of poles and brush. This was used as a burial place. The dead were wrapped in blankets with some of their possessions and seemingly were tossed on the structure and left in whatever position they fell. Also located near this scaffold was the log cabin of Richard Barritt. The post office of Barritts Hill was also established in this cabin.

For our own records and references we are giving names to some of these tributaries of Big Sandy as we could find no local names to fit them for reference. Indian Scaffold Branch was the first of these. Now we would like to go back to the stream on which Ft. Belmont was located.

This stream has its beginning just across the road to the east of Belmont Cemetery and a short way to the north. Just across the road east of the cemetery is a flat rocky ledge. This was the crossing place for this stream before the bridge was built to the south of the cemetery. Ft. Belmont was located almost in the center of section 32, Twp. 25, R. 15, on the west

side of the stream and the town of Belmont was about a half mile to the southeast. We are calling this stream Belmont Branch. About a mile north of the county line another stream crosses the road empties into Big Sandy just a short distance from where Indian Scaffold Branch empties into the creek. This stream came into historical prominence when two men were hanged on separate oak trees at the edge of this stream. The stump of one of the trees could be found just a few years back. A third man was hung on a black jack oak probably a hundred yards from the other two in the front yard of the Absolam Harp home. These three men had been tried for stealing cattle by a group of vigilantes from over in the Verdigris Valley. The trial had been held in the Big Sandy log school house that stood on the west bank of the creek, just over the county line in Wilson County, and on the claim of Josiah Daniel. Shortly after this trial in the log school, the school was moved to a location about two miles north into Woodson County, along the west side of Big Sandy.

Here the name of the school went by the name of the Jewett school after the name of the family on whose land it was located. We referred to the school as Big Sandy but we are not sure it was called by that name then.

As this small stream that heads about two miles to the north and west does not seem to have a name we would like for our own references as Hangmans Draw.

On up the creek several miles a fair-sized stream enters the main Big Sandy. This stream draws water from several sections of land. About a half mile from where this stream enters Big Sandy is located beautiful Lake Fegan. This lake is named for Ben Fegan of Junction City, who donated the land for the dam and lake. It would seem only proper for the stream to be called Fegan's Branch. This county lake was built by boys and men from the CCC, or Civilian Conservation Corps, during the trying, thirsty days of the early 1930's.

Big Sandy Creek gathers water from the hills to the west of Yates Center, between the headwater of Owl and Cedar Creeks. This is almost 12 miles north of where the creek enters Woodson County.

Another long branch to the east side of the main creek comes to within a couple of miles to the west of Yates Center. Belmont Branch drains into this long branch of Big Sandy. Two miles west and a mile and half south of Yates Center, and to the west into a large pasture along this stream in section 20 are springs that outcrop in the blackjack timber, that for many

years was a favorite picnic grounds for people in this area.

A small draw leads off the west of the main Big Sandy to the west side of the northwest quarter of section 1, Twp. 26, R. 17, where the draw cuts around a large bluff, which for many years has been known as Baker's Bluff. It was named for Baxter Baker who came to that farm in 1866, and purchased the farm from the original homesteader. Baker's Bluff was a favorite place for picnickers. A good deep water hole in the shadow of the bluff was a good swimming place.

The "Baptistery" of Big Sandy, was a popular place down through many years was a nice easily accessible water hole in the creek just above where the old bridge crossed the creek. By the old bridge we mean the one about a half mile east of where the last Big Sandy school house was located. Approaching this bridge from the east one came down a long, steep hill and a winding road and crossed the bridge at an angle. A new structure was built here several years ago and the steep hill greatly cut down. At the time this bridge was built it was referred to as the \$135,000 Big Sandy "baby."

This baptistery was used for many years of different faiths, but possibly more for the Christian denomination that was more prevalent in that vicinity. As many as 37 people were baptized there in a single day. Changes in the weather was no obstacle, as people that were raised in the vicinity tell of the leaders cutting holes in the ice and clearing it out for the baptism to be held.

The largest tributary of Big Sandy and the only one with a name that we could find is Little Sandy Creek. It has its beginning around two miles north of the Woodson County line and empties into Big Sandy just a short distance from where that stream enters the Verdigris River. On the south slope of a ridge of hills that slope towards the Wilson County line Little Sandy winds its way. By the time that the stream reaches the county line it does not stand very much water.

This Little Sandy Valley has been known by several names over the period of many years. Joshua Pucett settled in this valley around 1879. He raised a large family and for many years the area was known as Pucketts Valley. At one time it was known as Pleasant Valley. That was evidently before the gruesome murders and suicide committed in that area. All of the people in this tragedy lived in houses along the east side of the Valley. A man shot and killed his brother-in-law, badly wounded another, shot his wife and then killed himself.

## CIVIL WAR

Scout duty in Missouri, Company F, 9th Reg. Kansas Volunteer Calvary. This happened in the Spring of 1863. Co. F was composed mostly of farm boys of Woodson and Allen counties. The Captain was B.F. Goss of Neosho Falls and the Orderly Sergeant was Charles Graves of Turkey Creek.

Several companies of the 9th Reg. were stationed along the Kansas-Missouri border to repel maurders then infesting the border. Capt. Goss with his company was stationed at Trading Post in Eastern Linn Co., invited Sergeant Graves in to his tent one morning and related that the members of a large band of negro slaves had been given their freedom by the Emancipation Proclamation by Pres. A. Lincoln, was on its way to Kansas, had reached Bates County, Missouri, but could come no further without assistance. Its members were desirous of enjoying their freedom in the New Free State. Prominent colored leaders had proceeded them to Kansas and were doing everything in their power to assist this band to cross the border line. The leader of the movement was named Bass, was a man of unusual intelligence and ability for a slave, and of a splendid physique. He was a blacksmith by trade, and a first class mechanic. His former master had given him a reasonable education and he had become a preacher and a man of power and influence among his people. A friend of his, also a preacher had been compelled to abandon their wives and children in Bates County and proceeded to Kansas without them. These Negroes then went to the tent of Captain Goss to seek help in getting their families across the Kansas border.

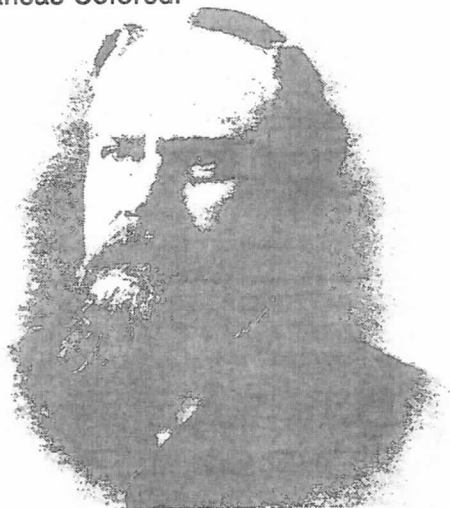
The Captain was an ardent supporter of Lincoln's Emancipation, but felt that the Army should not interfere with slavery further than the sucessful end of the war demanded and required. While he was sympathetic with these colored and wanted to help them he could not see how compliance with their wishes could be harmonized with his strict military duty. "However" he stated, "a scouting party goes down in that direction frequently, and it will not be noticeable for one to go now. If you decide to go" continued the Captain, "You can pick out ten men from the Company, and I would suggest the tenth as a good day to start." The Sergeant indicated that he had no objection to a few days vacation and that he with ten privates probably would begin a jaunt into Bates County on the morning of the tenth. "Now Sergeant" said the Captain, "Keep out of unnecessary trouble." He proceeded to outline a proper



route to avoid all known camps of bushwackers and guerillas. "I want it distinctly understood that you are on a scouting expedition to ascertain the location of other camps, and I do order, authorize or advise you to go near these niggers. If my permission should be requested, it would be emphatically denied. However if you should conclude to take out this scouting party and do not answer roll call on the night of the tenth, your absence and that of the members of your squad will not be noted."

On the morning of the tenth of June, 1863, a scouting party of ten men headed by Sergeant Graves started for Clinton, Mo. (It would be interesting to have the names of these ten men, as they were all of Woodson County.) A boyhood chum of the Sergeant Issac Pickering, a private was evidently in the ten.

With a few formalities and maneuvering Sgt. Graves and his ten privates, the start back to Kansas was started. On the 17th of June with a train of wagons, horses and oxen sufficient to transport their families and supplies the return trip was begun with 109 ex-slaves and their children. After quite a lot of difficulties with the Missouri Militia, this group of ex-slaves with the 11 men from Co. F, under Sgt. Graves, arrived at their destination. Of the colored or Negro men in this party of 109, there were 25 of them that enlisted as soldiers, most of them in Co. E, 2nd Kansas Colored.



**Charles B. Graves, in later years as a lawyer and Probate Judge in Neosho Falls, and later as a District Judge living in Burlington and Emporia. He was the Sergeant in the above story.**

#### FIRED AT TRAIN — (Taken from the Neosho Falls Post, 1916.)

As the six o'clock M.K.&T. passenger train went south last Friday evening some dare devil fired a rifle ball into one of the windows. A lady passenger who was sitting near the window was badly cut about the forehead by particles of glass. Charley Miller had been visiting in the Falls and was returning to Iola and sitting in the same seat. His hat was covered with broken glass. It was a narrow escape for him.

Just back of the Draper and Morehead farms the train met a man coming north who carried a gun and it was supposed he did the shooting. The train was stopped and backed up to where the shot was fired but the miscreant has escaped.

Inquiries were made by the train crew and it is thought the guilty man was seen hurrying away from the road.

Such work as this must be the work of a disturbed mind unless purely accidental.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### AN INTERESTING NOTE,

clipped from the Woodson Co. Advocate, of March, 1916.

"The Kansas State Board of Agriculture has taken a tractor census, and announces these results up to March 1, 1916. Wichita County is the only one of the 105 counties in the state which contains no farm tractors. Counties having the largest numbers are Pawnee with 113, Ford and Sedgewick with 105 each. Reno 107, and Barton 106.

Altogether there are 3,933 tractors in the State, an increase of 90 percent over the previous year.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### HARDER & WEIDE ELEVATOR BURNS.

Yates Center Advocate, 1917.

Last Friday morning, about 3 o'clock, fire was discovered in the Harder & Weide elevator. The firemen arrived on the scene in record time, but were unable to check the flames, as there was no water in the hydrants, and the building and contents were completely destroyed. A strong wind was blowing at the time and the temperature was below zero. Bucket brigades were formed and by hard work succeeded in saving adjoining property.

The fire is thought to have originated from a gas stove in the office. Just a few days before the fire Harder & Weide had received a carload of oats. This with other grain, to the value of \$1200, was a total loss as they carried no insurance.

The building was owned by A. Fisher of Kansas City, valued at \$6,000. and it is reported that his loss was not covered by insurance.

**PATRONS OF WOODSON COUNTY  
HISTORICAL QUARTERLY**

Milton & Virginia Schornick  
Kenneth & Barbara Stockebrand

John V. Glades Agency  
Street Abstract Co., Inc.

State Exchange Bank

Self Service Grocery

Steiner's Sundries

Piqua Farmer's Co-op

Morton Equipment Co.

Swope & Son Implement Co.

Superior Bldg. & Supply, Inc.

The Herring Families

Cantrell Hay Co.,

Craig Cantrell

J. C. & Helene Schnell

Wilma Mark

Yates Center News

Pringle Ranch -

J. Richard Pringle

Atkin Rexall Pharmacy

Campbell Funeral Home

Glen & Zola Baker

Piqua State Bank

Laurence M. &

Alice Catherin Smith

Charles F. Anderson,

Merriam, KS

Lynn and Gail Cantrell

Gaulding Oil Co.

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Ward

Clyde Hill

Kimbell Ranch-Ed. Kimbell

Hi-Way Food Basket

Atkin Clinic

Blackjack Cattle Co. Inc.

Jaspers Shopping Spot

Daly Western Supply

Linde Barber Shop

Campbell Plmg. & Electric

Ted Spencer-Gen. Agent

Woodson Co. Farm Bureau

Jaynes Insurance Agency

Glenn Shaw

C.L. "Matty" & Luriel Mathews

Milton & Marcella Wrampe

Loren & Rita Cantrell

Al's Jewelry

Edwin G. Reid, St. Louis, MO

Rex Butler, Nashville, TN

Thomas Wilson

Bill Herman

Abbott & Ethel Crandall

